Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-4305

March 5, 2021

President Joseph Biden The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in Proclamation 9844 on February 15, 2019. Your administration issued a proclamation on your first day in office, stating the declaration of an emergency was unwarranted. We ask you to reconsider your position in light of subsequent events.

There is a crisis at our southern border. It is critical that our leaders recognize the severity of the circumstances and respond accordingly. Your administration's refusal to enforce immigration laws has encouraged countless migrants to make the treacherous journey across our border. We urge you to recognize that an immigration crisis is underway and reinstate a national emergency concerning our southern border.

Following a surge of migrants crossing our border in January of this year, U.S. Customs & Border Patrol (CBP) announced that they "faced a growing number of individuals attempting to cross the southwest border, averaging about 3,000 arrests per day in January 2021." Their latest estimates approximate that 117,000 unaccompanied children will cross our border this year. They will travel amongst human traffickers and drug smugglers to get here.

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has made clear he does not believe this constitutes a crisis. We respectfully disagree. If you do not act swiftly, there will be unnecessary deaths at our southern border.

Your administration could prevent tragedy by reinstating the national emergency declaration and the Migrant Protection Protocols, otherwise known as the "remain in Mexico" program. These two steps would send a clear message to millions of potential migrants that the United States does not tolerate illegal entry into our country.

Respectfully,

Lance Gooden Jim Banks

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